Private and unofficial.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Executive Department.

Boston, April 7th 1863.

57

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq.

Boston. Mass.

Dear Sir;

The delay of the Committee on Federal Relations to report to the Legislature upon the Presidents Proclamation does not arise from either hesitancy or want of interest. That Committee is not accustomed to report upon national matters until the working committees, as they are called, have discharged their duties and the Legislature has passed upon their reports. Indeed the sentiment of both Houses and all their members is so nearly unanimous in support of the Proclamation, and opinion in that direction has gained solidity so

Hs. A. 1.2 v. 32, p. 22 B

V32, P22A

fast and so constantly with us, that I presume members of the General Court scarcely imagine that their affirmation would add much significance. The truth is that I really think slavery at this moment is about as unpopular in New England and in the North generally as it ever was in the most antislavery community either here or in England. I think that many persons vote against the Republicans, not from any kindness towards slavery, but from an old political habit and sentiment of opposition to them as a political party. Added to this is some dissatisfaction at supposed lack of adequate military progress, and in some minds a feeling or opinion (ignorant it is true) that the blood and treasure of the free white North is spending not for the good of the nation but simply for the deliverance of black men,

whom they do not much like and for whom they would willingly make no sacrifices. But the slavery of the colored race, though for a little time it may yet have a "name to live" on American soil, and may protract for a time a galvanic existence, I am thankful to believe is nevertheless as dead as the kingdom of Belshazzar.

However,— I thank You for your note and will immediately call attention of some members of the committee to its subject matter.

I am Respectfully and Faithfully Yours.

Thad Stevens